

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03717 151429Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 PA-01 ICAC-00
INR-10 ICAC-00 /046 W
-----104707 151431Z /47
P 151348Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1930

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE OR BRZEZINSKI

1. PROMINENT TURKISH JOURNALIST AND CURRENTLY "APPOINTED" SENATOR METIN TOKER TELEPHONED EMBASSY TO SAY THAT HE WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON FROM MAY 23 UNTIL THE END OF PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S VISIT. TOKER REQUESTED THAT AN APPOINTMENT BE ARRANGED FOR HIM WITH EITHER SECRETARY VANCE OR WITH DR BRZEZINSKI FOR AN INTERVIEW, "ON OR OFF THE RECORD." AFTER CONSULTATION WITH USICA, WE INFORMED TOKER THAT INTERVIEWS WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WERE BEING REFUSED BY TOP ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS FROM TWO WEEKS BEFORE TO TWO WEEKS AFTER THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING. WE ADDED THAT OTHER PROMINENT JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING ABDI IPEKCI WERE BEING TOLD THE SAME THING. TOKER THEN ASKED THAT A CALL IN HIS CAPACITY AS A TURKISH SENATOR BE ARRANGED FOR HIM WITH EITHER VANCE OR BRZEZINSKI. WE PROMISED TO SEND HIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON AND ALSO SUGGESTED THAT HE ASK THE TURKISH EMBASSY THERE FOR ASSISTANCE.

2. SORRY TO PASS THE BUCK TO BUSY PEOPLE, BUT TOKER (INTER ALIA SON-IN-LAW OF THE LATE ISMET INONU) IS AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN TURKEY, AND IS ONE OF THE FRIENDLIER OF THE MAJOR JOURNALISTS. WE CANNOT BE IN A POSITION OF NOT HAVING TAKEN HIS REQUEST SERIOUSLY. IF NEITHER VANCE NOR BRZEZINSKI CAN SEE HIM, WE SUGGEST THAT SOMEONE IN THE DEPARTMENT AT A FAIRLY SENIOR LEVEL DO SO. SPIERS
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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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